

In the Specification

Please substitute the following paragraph beginning on page 2, line 9:

In recent trials, combination therapies with AZT and other antiretroviral drugs, such as ~~phosphonomethoxyethyl phosphonomethoxyethyl~~ adenine and dideoxycytidine 5'-triphosphate, had minimal to no effect in preventing or controlling FIV infection in cats (Hartmaun *et al.*, 1992; Magnani *et al.*, 1994; Philpott *et al.*, 1992). The *in vivo* use of viral protease inhibitors or new nucleoside analogue combinations, such as, for example, lamivudine (3TC) and AZT has yet to be reported in FIV-infected cats. Commercially available HIV protease inhibitors (*e.g.*, Sequinavir (SQV), Indinavir (IDV), Ritonavir, Nelfinavir) do not inhibit FIV replication in PBMC *in vitro*. Unlike other nucleoside analogues, 3TC rapidly induces mutations which can phenotypically reverse the mutations caused by AZT, enabling the antiviral activity of AZT to persist in the host (Boucher *et al.*, 1993; Larder, 1995; Tisdale *et al.*, 1993). This unique feature of 3TC makes it a prime candidate for use in combination with AZT. In HIV-positive individuals, the combination AZT/3TC therapy had synergistic or additive effects at decreasing plasma virus load and increasing CD4 cell counts and function (Katlama *et al.*, 1994; Lange, 1995; Paul *et al.*, 1995; Staszewski, 1995). The addition of an HIV protease inhibitor to this combination further decreased the viral load and improved the CD4 cell count (Deeks *et al.*, 1997; Torres *et al.*, 1997).